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منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

TL 3818

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL **AI Index: ASA 21/18/97**

26 March 1997

Further information (1) on EXTRA 41/97 (ASA 21/17/97, 24 March 1997) - Fear of torture/ill-treatment/possible prisoners of conscience

EAST TIMOR At least 24 youths

Twenty-four of those arrested in connection with a demonstration at the Mahkota Hotel in Dili on 23 March 1997 remain in custody and are now facing charges for publicly expressing hatred against the government. The remaining 21 arrested on 23 March appear to have been released.

The fact that the 24 are being held under Indonesia's "Hate-sowing" Articles, which punish the expression of "hatred" against the government, confirms Amnesty International's fears that the East Timorese are being tried for the peaceful expression of their beliefs, rather than for any alleged acts of violence during the disturbance. A police official was quoted by Reuters news agency as stating that *"[t]he banners they displayed show hatred against the government"*. It is not known whether the 24 have been given access to independent legal counsel.

It is not known if the three and possibly seven others arrested on 24 March are still being held.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/ airmail letters in English or Bahasa Indonesia or in your own language:
- calling on the authorities to release immediately and unconditionally all those being held for the peaceful expression of their beliefs;
- urging the authorities to ensure that none of those currently held is at risk of torture or ill-treatment;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that the 24 have unhindered access to lawyers during the investigation into their cases.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ali Alatas SH
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl. Medan Taman Pejambon No.6
Jakarta
Indonesia
Fax: +62 21360 517/380 5511/ 345 7782/360 541/724 5354
Telex: 44205; 44469 deplu jkt
Telegrams: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jakarta, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

National Commission on Human Rights - East Timor
Alex Refialy, SH
KOMNAS HAM
Jalan Dr Antonio de Carvalho
Dili Timor Timur
Indonesia

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 April 1997.

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

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